Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 JIDDA 07979 121125Z

12

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 /018 W

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PR 121031Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6567

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USINT BAGHDAD

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

/AMEMBASSY KUWAIT 3376

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

UNCLAS JIDDA 7979

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: BEXP, XF

SUBJECT: PROPOSED NATIONAL FOREST PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION IOGA

тм

REF STATE 299395

1. EMBASSY WELCOMES SUBJECT TM BUT SUGGESTS THAT JIDDA DATES BE APRIL 17-20, 1977, BECAUSE DATES MENTIONED APRIL 20-24, INCLUDE WEEKEND HOLIDAY APRIL 21-22 WHEN NO BUSINESS POSSIBLE AND RECEPTIONS POORLY ATTENDED. THIS ACCEPTANCE IS CONDITIONED ON WHETHER ALABAMA IOGA, NOTED IN CAGNE DECEMBER EVENTS SCHEDULE, IS RECRUITED FOR APRIL 15-27, 1977. CONCURRENT TMS WITH NEAR SIMILAR THEMES WILL ONLY DILUTE EFFECTIVENESS OF BOTH, AND POST STRONGLY ADVISES AGAINST HAVING THE TM'S SO CLOSE TOGETHER. POST PREFERS ALABAMA BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION TM IF POSSIBLE.

2. IT IS ALSO NOTED THAT, AS A CONSEQUENCE OF A FIRE IN RIYADH AT THE KING FEISAL HOSPITAL RESIDENCE AREA WHERE UNCLASSIFIED

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SIX WOODEN PREFAB HOUSES WERE DESTROYED WITHIN AN HOUR,

THERE HAS BEEN A GROUNDSWELL OF PUBLIC AND OFFICIAL OPPOSITION TO WOODEN PREFABS.

3. THE FOREST PRODUCTS THAT WOULD SELL BEST HERE ARE FINISHED MATERIALS FOR HOUSING, SUCH AS FLOOR AND WALL PANELS, PLYWOOD, VENEERS, TREATED AND LAMINATED PRODUCTS. SOME MILLWORK POTENTIAL EXISTS BUT SHINGLE PRODUCTS HAVE LITTLE OR NO CHANCE FOR MEANINGFUL SALES. COMPETITION IS REPRESENTED BY SWEDISH, FINNISH, PHILIPPINE AND EAST ASIAN SOURCES, ALL OF WHOM HAVE MADE SIZEABLE SALES EFFORTS HERE, PARTICULARLY IN JIDDA. THE LARGE SCOPE OF THE MARKET HERE, PARTICULARLY IN HOUSING AND FURNISHINGS OFFERS EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THOSE PRODUCTS THAT REPRESENT TECHNICAL IMPROVEMENTS IN USE OF FINISHED WOOD PRODUCTS AND CONSTRUCTION LUMBER. IF THE MISSION IS EXPLORATORY AND DOES NOT EXPECT IMMEDIATE RESULTS, WE WELCOME IT. SAUDI ARABIA IS A MARKET OF SURPRISES, HOWEVER, AND IT IS JUST POSSIBLE THAT SOME EXCELLENT RESULTS CAN BE OBTAINED. PORTER

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: BEXP, XF To: STATE

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